

**STILLWATER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 4, 2009**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Adelbert Eder, Chris Fleck, Larry Gee, Linda Halstead-Acharya, Clint Teegardin, Bob Van Oosten, Alvin Stadel, and Cynthia Colbert

STAFF: Cal Cumin, Forrest Mandeville, and Laurie Kelley

OTHERS: George Bokma

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7PM by Clint Teegardin

II. MINUTES APPROVAL. Chris made the motion to approve the January 2009 meeting minutes, and Larry seconded; motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

Legislative Activity. Cal reviewed current legislation that will affect planning if passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

Planning for Value. The issue of addressing community plans as referenced in the new Growth Management Policy was discussed. Cynthia said this would be a good time to get started on this, since subdivision activity has slowed somewhat; Chris agreed. Forrest said he and Melissa can go back to the unincorporated communities in the County and see how the local residents would like to see their communities grow. The surveys Forrest conducted last year and the community facility needs which are being identified by citizens (such as the water system improvements needed in Rapelje) in Melissa's economic development work each will be a kind of starting point. Larry said this kind of planning needs to come from the residents up and not be something that comes from the Planning Board or County down. Forrest said that the function of this Office would be to facilitate such effort and provide the forum for feedback. The consensus of the Board was to direct the staff to move forward with this. Cal said it would be run by the County Commissioners and then we'd get right on it. We will have a good idea of progress and a proposal at our next meeting.

Clint brought in an article from the September-October 2008 *Montana Outdoors* magazine entitled "Drawing a Line." The article outlined the efforts of Bill Geer to promote a project sponsored by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. The Sportsman User Value Mapping Project aims to "conserve fish and wildlife habitat while protecting and improving public access for hunting and fishing." This addresses some of the issues we have been discussing concerning the values people in the County hold. The

Board directed that this be put on the next agenda. Clint will contact Bill Geer to see if he is willing to attend a meeting and give the group more information on the project.

OTHER:

George Bokma. George Bokma, Stillwater County Fire Warden, said he had visited the Park Dale Subdivision on two occasions. On his first visit he noted that the manhole was a 16-inch culvert, which is too small for access. There was no screen in the vent, the 2.5-inch suction pipe and fittings required by Stillwater County Subdivision Regulations had not been installed and there was no room for fire trucks to maneuver around the hydrant. George said he returned to the site on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 and nothing further had been done. George said he would go out and inspect it again as soon as the developer says the work is done. Cal said he will withhold filing until it passes inspection.

George also inspected the Big Sky Subdivision, located near Cooney Reservoir. He told the Board that on January 9, 2009, the tank was frozen, had no fittings and was not buried deep enough. He also mentioned that the suction pipe was installed incorrectly. He suggested that the developer be required to cover and mound the tank, add the appropriate hook-ups, and put in the second dry hydrant that was supposed to have already been installed. Cal said he would write a letter of enforcement to the owner.

The Elwood Subdivision tank has been repaired and is now in the ground and full of water. The fittings still need to be installed.

Cal noted that there is still confusion as to which regulations George is looking at, and he will get with George to correct this. He also complimented George on the work that is being done and said we will continue to refine the administration of this important issue.

Clint Teegartin. Clint passed around an informational letter he had written regarding dry hydrants and asked if it was okay to put in the local paper. Cynthia offered to do some editing for him before it is submitted and he agreed.

Bob Van Oosten. Bob addressed an email that had been sent out by Clint on January 29, 2009 concerning McDonald's beef. He said that the email was a hoax, and according to his brother-in-law, a meat scientist with the University of Minnesota, McDonald's has some of the most stringent meat handling rules in the industry. Bob handed out an article copied from the *Western Ag Reporter* that confirmed that McDonald's is not buying beef from South America. Cynthia said she checked out the email on snopes.com, a rumor debunking website, and it was reported as false.

V. ADJOURN: Bob made the motion that the meeting be adjourned, Cynthia seconded; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Laurie Kelley
Administrative Assistant